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Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05718 191052Z

22
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INSE-00

DODE-00 DEAE-00 SY-05 L-03 H-02 INR-07 INRE-00 SSO-00

/044 W
---------- 060455
O P 191025Z JUL 76
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1262
AMCONSUL HONGKONG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RANGOON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES - BOAT CASES

REF: A) STATE 177095, B) STATE 177758 (NOTAL), C) HONG KONG 8394
D) HONG KONG 8398, E) GENEVA 5673

1. IN RESPONSE TO APPROACH REQUESTED PARA 2 REF A, UNHCR STATED IT HAD ALREADY MADE PROPOSED REQUEST OF HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ON JULY 13, BOTH THROUGH ITS AREA REPRESENTATIVE IN KUALA LUMPUR (SAMPAT KUMAR) AND THROUGH THE UK MISSION IN GENEVA. IR URGED HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT INDOCHINESE REFUGEES TO LAND IN ORDER THAT IT (UNHCR) MIGHT ASSUME CARE AND MAINTENANCE RESPONS-IBILITIES AND PROMPTLY UNDERTAKE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES. IT FURTHER OFFERED TO SEND UNHCR OFFICIAL TO HONG KONG TO TAKE CHARGE OF OPERATION. BRITISH MISSION RESPONDED FOLLOWING DAY
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05718 191052Z

THAT, FOR REASONS CITED REF E, LANDING OF REFUGEES IN HONG KONG

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"WAS NOT POSSIBLE."

2. U.S. MISSION MAINTAINING CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH UNHCR ON SUBJECT. LATTER WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE AS TO CURRENT POSITION AND STATUS OF AVA AND INDOCHINESE REFUGEES ABOARD. WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO CONGEN HONG KONG.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO QUESTION POSED REF D, UNHCR OFFICIALS IN CONVERSATION REPORTED REF E, GAVE THEIR LEGAL ADVISOR'S POSITION THAT FLAG COUNTRY OF VESSEL RESCUING SURVIVORS ON HIGH SEAS BORE NO REPEAT NO RESPONSIBILITY AS FIRST COUNTRY OF ASYLUM FOR "REFUGEES". THEIR POSITION IS THAT THIS IS HUMANITARIAN ACTION TAKEN ON CAPTAIN'S INITIATIVE PURSUANT TO 1910 BRUSSELS CONVENTION AND IMPOSES NO OBJEGATION UPON STATE OF REGISTRY OF HIS VESSEL. PRESUMABLY, ALTHOUGH THIS POINT NOT MADE CLEAR AT MEETING, RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASYLUM RESTS WITH COUNTRY AT WHICH "REFUGEES" FIRST LANDED.
DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, RESCUE SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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TAGS: SREF, SZ, XC
To: STATE RANGOON
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